

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. President, Senator UDALL of New Mexico has been an incredible steward and champion of so many of the things at the heart of our country's greatness, like America's great outdoors and natural lands, a culture enriched by our Tribal nations, and an enduring commitment to democracy. America's environment, our Native communities, and our right to vote are some of the fundamental elements that make this country so unique, and Senator UDALL has faithfully served the people of New Mexico and all Americans as an incredibly gifted national leader on these issues and so many more.

I got to serve with Senator UDALL on the Commerce Committee, where during the pandemic we worked together to bridge the digital divide and expand broadband, especially for our Tribal communities, where, as we all know, he served as the ranking member, the top Democrat, on the Indian Affairs Committee.

I also was proud to serve with Senator UDALL in the Rules Committee. We worked on Native American voting rights together, but he was the lead. He was the lead on so many bills that would make our democracy better. I hope that one of his legacies is that, when he is gone, we will be able to finally put these laws into operation and get them done.

One of his great pieces of legislation was a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, and one day we will get this done. So many people are tired of the money streaming into our politics, the fact that we have hidden money streaming into our politics, and his amendment would fix so much of this.

He was also cofounder of the Congressional International Conservation Caucus, where he left his mark on this country with his work to protect public lands and national parks while promoting America's leadership in conservation.

From his years as New Mexico's attorney general to his 10 years of service in the House of Representatives and his 12 years as a U.S. Senator, TOM UDALL has been literally a giant in public service. No one should be surprised. He once summed up what drove him by saying: "The thing that inspired me the most when I was very young was the idea that if you had a good idea of reforming something and you really stuck to it, you could literally change the world."

Well, I am going to miss Senator UDALL, and we are also going to miss his wife Jill, whom I got to know well. I have a fond memory of one of the new Senator orientations where Tom and Jill and my husband John and I were tasked with talking to the arriving Senators a few years ago, brand-new, in this building and giving them tips on how they operate and how they handle their first few years and how you can stay married while being a U.S. Senator. I remember it fondly because

MITT ROMNEY was sitting in the front row taking notes diligently, and I thought maybe he didn't need our advice on this.

But Tom and Jill are just an incredible couple in a town where it is not always easy to keep such a strong, beautiful relationship.

So I want to thank Senator UDALL for his work on behalf of his State, the beautiful State of New Mexico, and thank the State for sharing their extraordinary Senator with the Nation for so many years.

Senator UDALL, thank you for your service, and I know there is more to come.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. President, my colleagues, Senator PAT ROBERTS, as we know, is the longest serving member of Congress in Kansas history. He leaves the Senate as a giant in his home State and a true champion for the people of Kansas.

In his words, he is a Kansan "through and through," born in Topeka, earning his journalism degree from Kansas State, and representing Kansas for 16 years in the House and 22 years in the Senate.

I serve on the Agriculture Committee, and he has been my chairman. I have been proud to serve with him as a fellow farm-State Senator, where he has been a champion for the breadbasket of America, as Kansas is known.

He has also worked tirelessly to honor those legendary Kansans who came before him. Earlier this year, Senator ROBERTS was there to cut the ribbon at the dedication of the Eisenhower Memorial, a monument he has been devoted to as chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and I know he is one of the few members of Congress who can actually say he met President Eisenhower. At the dedication, Senator ROBERTS remarked that "Eisenhower understood one person's ability to chart his or her own course and change the course of the world." That is something Senator ROBERTS has done often, in a quiet manner.

I have really admired the way he worked across the aisle with Senator STABENOW every day. They didn't always agree on everything, but they found common ground. I got to work with him on a number of issues—ensuring that our wheat growers would get sorely needed relief through the CARES program, making the Tax Code consistent with how farmers finance new equipment, and protecting our food supply chain through investments in science and research.

When I think about the legacy Chairman ROBERTS will leave, I think about those investments in science and research through the creation of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

Both of these facilities will play a critical role in helping today's farmers and ranchers tackle the many challenges that they face. He has also been cochair of the Senate Rural Health

Caucus, working to ensure quality healthcare—not just in urban areas where it is so important but also in rural areas.

We both come from families of newspapermen. Senator ROBERTS' great-grandfather, J.W. Roberts, founded the Oskaloosa Independent, the second oldest newspaper in Kansas. And my dad started at a Minneapolis paper as a sports reporter, where his main beat was the Minnesota Vikings. Maybe the things that we have in common stop there, but, certainly, that newspaper background is something we have talked about and shared.

I will miss Senator ROBERTS' humor, and I will miss his good work and look forward to continuing to work with Senator STABENOW and Senator BOOZMAN as leaders of the Agriculture Committee.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. President, next, Senator ALEXANDER. Senator ALEXANDER has served the people of Tennessee for more combined years as Senator and Governor than anyone else from their State. With both Senator ROBERTS and Senator ALEXANDER, we literally will be missing people who bring to this place the strong sense of commitment and long service to our government.

Senator ALEXANDER has served our country as he worked to find consensus on the issues that matter most—like education, healthcare, mental health and addiction. I saw him work day by day with Senator PATTY MURRAY, and they were able to pass so many bills to show this Chamber that, in fact, you can get little things done—yes—but you can also get big things done, including the changes that they made that were long needed to No Child Left Behind, including the changes in the work that they have done when it comes to healthcare.

As he gave advice to his successor, incoming Senator Bill Hagerty, LAMAR said, "It's hard to get here, in the United States Senate. It's hard to stay here. And while you're here you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country."

Like his many quips—and I have read his book, his red plaid book of advice—and the many things he has shared with me for advice, including running for President, which may not have worked for either of us, but you could tell the love that he brought to the people of this country and the people of his State and how he talked about them and how he approached his work.

As a former Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush, president of the University of Tennessee, and as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, we know, has worked tirelessly to ensure every child can succeed.

In addition to the work I just mentioned that he did with the Every Student Succeeds Act and the work he did on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, he has also